

Petticoats Are Back Again in Our Midst. All Frilled and Featherboned, the Newest Petticoats Are Like the Quaint Old Fashioned Ones of Twenty Years Ago. There Are Lacy Ones with Witching Ribbon Knots and Taffeta Ones of Plaid and Stripe and Enormous Checks Which Are Profusely Ruffled and Gathered and Shirred. Then, Too, There Are Crinoline Ones with Featherbones at the Edge to Make Them Flare Properly Wide. No Stiff Flare to These But One That Is Graceful and Wide.

INCONSTANCY, the name is fashion! Without rhyme or reason she shifts her vantage ground and there is no predicting what mad whim she will follow to extremes. Just now she is concerned with petticoats. For years now she has gone on the principle that the less one wore the better, with the result that bodices have become startlingly vague, skirts have diminished beyond belief, and petticoats have long since ceased to exist.

Not that all this was accomplished quickly or easily. The petticoat is a first love with a woman and in the days that were, when she reveled in four and even five ruffy, fluffy underskirts, her heart was full of feminine joy. Not without protest and rebellion did she see them slowly taken from her, the number she was permitted reduced to three, to two, to one long one, then to one short one, and finally without due warning of any sort she was told that she was to dispense with the petticoat entirely. If some pretense she must have, then a few ruffles, perhaps, on the edge of a pair of round garters. But that was all. Gone was the beloved petticoat of old and nothing more was glimpsed of it—until now.

It has returned. All frills and furbelows and feather-boned and wired, it is in our midst again. It is fun, too, looking them over. For one has a bewildering variety to choose from and an infinitude of styles from which to make selection.

There is the taffeta petticoat, which had its day of favor a number of years ago and which is again as popular as ever it dared be in the heyday of its youth. Go to your trunk or your wardrobe which is stored away in the attic and take out the taffeta skirt you used to love. Perhaps you only wore it a few times and it is really as substantial and pretty as when it was newest. If so, you can wear it without changes of any sort.

No matter whether it be plaid or striped or checked or plain, it will be equally in vogue. Of course it is ruffled, maybe extravagantly so, but don't be afraid of it for that reason. You can see its replica in all the smart shops now and in the fall outfits of the smartest women. One I saw in a shop not many days ago with precisely eleven ruffles, and each of those necessarily diminutive ruffles was edged with maribou. These taffeta petticoats, especially when they are striped, are modish under a severely tailored suit.

French couturiers are offering every kind of petticoat imaginable. They show the prettiest silk affairs stiffened with crinoline, made from every kind of silk that is used for dresses.

This new version of our old fashioned crinoline is in no way a formidable or dangerous looking affair. Ancient styles are reviving, but not ancient extremes. We are accepting the nipped in waist, for instance, that our grandmothers doted on and considered the first mark of a lady, but we are not accepting it in any but modified forms. And while we are adopting the stiffening in our underskirts which went by the name of hoops in our grandmothers' days, we are not adopting it in extreme measures.

One handsome satin petticoat with frills of dainty lace was edged about the hem with a tiny band of black fur, and this fur was possessed of a single featherbone, which featherbone was not very stiff even at that. Other ones there are where the tendency to voluminousness is more pronounced. Sometimes a firm, rather heavy silk, such as faille, is featherboned half a dozen or even more times, but this is extreme and by no means usual. One row of featherboning is about all the women who enjoy a middle path through the fashion world permits herself just now.

It seems rather peculiar that at this particular time, when there is bound to be a shortage in furs, there should be such a profusion of them on every possible garment. Petticoat edgings and nightgown edgings are two of the most recent novelties in this fur trimming line. Ermine is exquisite for sheer evening petticoats, and I have seen both fox and seal applied in dainty fashion. One has to be careful with these more substantial furs, however, and not get too heavy an effect on the garment. The furriers are certainly doing all that is in their power to prepare and dye the cheaper skins into some accurate semblance of the better ones, but even the cat and the rabbit are bound to give out in time when the demand for their fur seems to have become a wellnigh universal one.

In the lingerie line I have seen a pair of Neptune satin pajamas which were edged at the feet with fur, as well as their sleeves and fronts. This Neptune satin, by the way, is a delightful material which is bound to prove

FRILLED and FEATHERBONED ARE THE NEW PETTICOATS

SAYS LOUISE JAMES



Maude Martin Evers

1. One of the new pink silk petticoats, extravagantly full, with its ruffles edged with black fox fur and lightly featherboned to make them flare properly about the hem. The silk

stockings are embroidered in the latest mode.

2. A negligee of red satin and lace, the overskirt of lace veiling faintly the satin pantalettes underneath.

3. A pair of pajamas of the new Neptune silk which washes perfectly and is of an exquisite satiny finish.

satisfactory and delightful to many women this winter. It may be actually boiled without harm to either the color or the texture, and the reverse side of the satin is always of a darker shade.

Another way to achieve the desired flare is by means of a cord. One of digital thickness and covered with silk to match the skirt may be carefully applied about the lower edge with excellent results. And still others

have bestowed upon them such a profusion of fullness that no further stiffening is needed unless exaggerated effects are desired.

Delicately embroidered petticoats in all the pastel

shades are shown, and they are charming. The bodice to a skirt of this sort can be made to match, and if the material is crepe de chine cording is excellent to stiffen it with about the bottom.